capital little picture by Mr. Dicksee, which deserves a better place. The expression of both man and dog is excellent.

THE SHEFFIELD ATHENÆUM COMPETITION.

Sir,—There is much reason to fear that the *Sheffield Athenæum Competition* will prove an *addendum* to the list of invitations to architects which have of late proved so unsatisfactory, both to the profession and the parties inviting.

Your Journal of last week contained the advertisement desiring designs to be submitted, upon the understanding that the successful competitor should carry the work into execution; and the Instructions very properly add "*provided the conditions above specified are complied with.*"

These conditions refer to the style and scale of drawings;—the accommodation and the expense. Let us place these two latter conditions in juxta-position, and see if they do not involve a failure.

Site, 72 feet by 63 feet (nearly rectangular), to contain "(1) *A lecture room* with light gallery, capable of seating 1000 persons. (2) A reading and news room. (3) A library. (4) Coffee room. (5) Chess room. (6) Gymnasium. (13) Seven class rooms (three to contain thirty pupils each, and four to contain fifty pupils each). (14) A board room. (15) An office for manager. (16) A porter's room. (17) A kitchen and necessary conveniences. Such are the requirements,—seventeen special provisions. On the other hand, we have the sum of 4,500*l.* to work with.

A little reflection will show us that the lecture room to afford such an accommodation or area must be placed above, consequently the whole carcasing must be of the most substantial character.

There are two frontages, the shorter being principal. Any arrangement will require an open area at the back for lighting, &c.; allow 20 feet by 20 feet for this. Take for the several heights of these floors, including from foundation to parapet, 70 feet (it cannot be less), and it gives 229,520 cubic feet. Shall we take this at a carcase price? It gives us 7,000*l.* There is yet one more provision to be covered by the 4,500*l.*, namely, "a warming and ventilating apparatus of efficient character."

Really, Sir, our Sheffield friends must be called upon to revise these 'instructions' or 'particulars' before any architect can entertain their 'invitation.' With the utmost diffidence of one's own opinion, it seems to me to be a compromise of principle in that architect who shall offer a design with such pretensions. 290,000 cubic feet! 4500*l.*!!

Yours truly, Oh! Oh!

THE ARMY AND NAVY CLUB COMPETITION.

We have heard with much satisfaction, that our remark in last week's number was received in the spirit in which it was written, and immediately acted on. The committee invited any gentleman who had inadvertently seen plans before they were sent in, and was cognisant of the architect's name, to abstain from attending during the selection, and the invitation was accepted. It gives us great pleasure to find an anxious desire prevailing in the committee to decide honestly and fairly, and that they appear to be proceeding with great care. Sixty-nine designs have been received, some of them prepared at great cost. They were numbered as they arrived, and are being examined in that order. When the committee have selected a certain number of designs as the best, in doing which it seems nearly certain that they will seek professional assistance, the whole will be submitted to the members at large for their opinion, and ultimately, there is no doubt, will be exhibited to the public.

The Paris Institution of Civil Engineers.—The endeavour on the part of the Minister of Public Works to establish an institution of civil engineers in Paris has been eminently successful, and an appropriate building will soon be finished to receive it. The French government are said to be anxious to induce young men of talent to adopt civil engineering as a profession.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Burning of Theatres.—The burning of the German theatre of Pesth, in Hungaria, the largest building of that city, is generally ascribed to the action of the new (Baron Hügel's) heating apparatus, constructed on the principle of reverberation—*réfoulement*—of caloric. There, as the fire happened towards morning, no lives were lost. The conflagration at Carlsruhe was an event—terrific, awful. Then—that of Stuttgard. German architects propose now a legislative enactment, that a certain proportion, or ratio should be laid down,—by which the number, position, size, &c. of *doors* is to be *regulated*. One of our German contemporaries says, that to every area of the theatres capable of holding 300 people, one door should be appropriated, be it in new buildings or those already established.

The Largest Monolith in the World.—The obelisk of Luxor, now on the Place de la Concorde at Paris, weighs (according to Mr. Lebas, the engineer) 246 tons English. This, however, is greatly surpassed by the granite column of one single block, which has been raised by the French architect, Mr. Montverrand, at St. Petersburg. It is about 96 feet high, and weighs *three times* as much as the obelisk of Luxor.

Monument to an Artist King.—This memorial to King René, of France, made after the model of Mr. David d'Angers, is now in the hands of the founder to whom this artist usually confides his work. The municipality of Angers was, some time, wavering where to place this monument, but have of late decided on the vicinity of the old Château, in which this artist king was born.

Sharp Practice—at Times, Good Practice.—A couple of years back the municipality of Paris expended considerable sums for the embankment and *quaying* of the Isle St. Louis, on the Seine. This was done under the tacit impression, that as it was *city property*, they would be subsequently enabled to do with it as they liked. Accordingly, the land was laid out in building plots—when Government interfered, and *said*, that these spaces could *not* be covered with buildings, as they would interfere with the free circulation of the air, and therefore impair the salubrity of the adjacent parishes; that, in fine, private emolument can never encroach upon or interfere with public convenience, and, far less, welfare.

THE GAS MOVEMENT AT LIVERPOOL.

GAS FOR NOTHING?

With reference to the Liverpool Gas movement, we have received a communication from Mr. Cox, the engineer of the Guardian Company, which we willingly present to our readers, reserving our remarks till they have perused its contents.

Sir,—My attention has been drawn to a paragraph in the *Bristol Mirror*, purporting to be copied from your paper, in which it is stated that in my evidence before the surveying officers, at Liverpool, I said that "Companies might sell gas, with a profit, at 2s. 8d. per thousand cubic feet; and moreover, that at Bristol it actually costs less than nothing."

It is due to the gas companies at Bristol, as well as to myself, that I should correct this statement. What I said was, that the Liverpool Guardian Gas Company would be able to supply gas at 3s. 8d. per thousand cubic feet, with a remunerating profit; but I prefaced this, by stating that advantages peculiar to Liverpool would enable them to do so: that no inference could be drawn of the cost of gas in one place from its cost in another, as it must depend on local circumstances, and that it was possible, in some places, to make it for nothing, such as where a demand for a costly description of coke made the value of the produce of coke more than the cost of the coal,—and I instanced a private works in Bristol, whose consumption of this sort of coke exceeded their make, and enabled them to produce gas for next to nothing. No inference was intended to be drawn from this statement, that the gas companies at Bristol could make gas for nothing, even by adopting the same process as is used by this private company, as there would be no sale for the produce of coke at a remunerating price: and I most distinctly deny that I in any way meant to say either that the Bristol gas companies made their gas expensively, or charged for it highly, or that I gave any opinion at all on the subject; though, at the same time, I may observe that my evidence that gas can, in some situations, be sold at 3s. 8d. per thousand cubic feet, will not appear, even to persons unacquainted with the subject, so extraordinary, when it is considered that the present price at Liverpool is only 4s. 6d., and that to large consumers at Bristol it is the same.

Had I said what the paragraph quoted imputes to me, that all gas companies could supply at 3s. 8d. (not 2s. 8d.) at a profit, I should have stultified myself when, at the same time, I gave evidence that other companies with whom I am connected charge 6s. and 7s. per thousand cubic feet, and while I myself, as lessee of two works, am charging 10s. per thousand.—I am, Sir, &c., John Cox.

Bristol, 23rd March, 1847.

Our readers will at once perceive that Mr. Cox cannot have seen our articles on "The Gas Movement," particularly those of 30th January, 20th and 27th February, and 6th March, or, indeed, any one of them, otherwise he would have been led to suspect that the little newspaper extract which he quotes,—and even that too erroneously,—was only a small portion of a longer article, the context of which might materially affect the inferences to be drawn from the passage quoted, if not too its more immediate sense,—as also, more particularly, does the erroneous quotation itself of the passage in question, which we ourselves have seen correctly enough rendered in at least half a hundred of the provincial and other papers, but which a portion of the Bristol press appears to have erroneously quoted. In the article of 20th February, from which alone the extract could have been taken, and in the numerous and perfectly accurate repetitions of that extract itself in the newspapers of the day, there was no such unqualified statement as "*that at Bristol* it actually costs less than nothing." On the contrary it is twice repeated, in that article, and, unless we are very much mistaken, was so expressed in *all* the extracts from it that we have met with, that "*in* ONE *manufactory* at Bristol,"—such was stated by Mr. Cox to have been the case; and not a word is said about "the gas companies at Bristol" at all. Moreover, in quoting from Mr. Cox's own evidence, as reported in the Liverpool papers [in which reports, by the way, the error of 2s. 8d. instead of 3s. 8d. must have arisen, and not with us], this very passage *was itself prefaced* by the precautionary remark that "*the variation of the price of gas in various localities is very great. This probably in part arises from the variation in the expense of coals;* but that is by no means sufficient in many cases to account for the difference:" and, in the very next sentence follows the remark in question, about a "manufactory at Bristol." But besides all this, we also took care, in the very same article, to point out the fact that "It is under a patent, however, 'for the creation of heat,'" and "by means of the profit arising from the preparation and sale of coke," under that patent, that "gas *in some circumstances* can be reduced in cost to *little or nothing.*" And we even added that the patented process was more particularly applicable "*where there is a large demand for coke*, and at Liverpool," &c. Mr. Cox, therefore, is led 'distinctly to deny' what we have never either stated or inferred, insinuated or imputed, far less left to be understood without sufficient explanation. We desire at all times, and in all cases, to state every thing honestly and fairly; and we are very much mistaken indeed if we do not pass out of the jet of Mr. Cox's gaseous ordeal, not only unscathed, even in his own estimation, but with a fixed persuasion, moreover, on his own mind, no less than on the minds of our readers in general, that we are neither capable of voluntary misrepresentation, nor very likely to fall into that which may, nevertheless, involuntarily arise in even the most carefully conducted journals.

Lord Northampton's Fourth Soirée to the fellows of the Royal Society was given last Saturday, and was more numerously attended, as it seemed to us, than on any previous occasion. Prince Albert was amongst the visitors.

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